

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 211

By Jernigan

A RESOLUTION encouraging public awareness of the use of umbilical cord blood and placenta blood banking, supporting the expansion of existing research in the area of umbilical cord blood and placenta blood banking, and encouraging exploration into additional stem cell research.

WHEREAS, research has shown that umbilical cord blood and placenta-derived stem cells are viable vehicles for potential treatments of some life-threatening conditions and diseases in human beings; and

WHEREAS, the stem cells obtained from umbilical cord blood and placenta blood can be used in the treatment of leukemia, multiple myeloma, sickle-cell disease, lymphoma, and a number of other acute or terminal illnesses; and

WHEREAS, stem cells derived from umbilical cord blood and placenta blood are also currently being evaluated for use in the treatment of a number of other diseases, including Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, cerebral palsy, diabetes, multiple sclerosis, and a number of different lung ailments, as well as spinal cord injuries; and

WHEREAS, research has found that in addition to umbilical cord blood, the placenta can yield significantly more CD 34+ stem cells, the cells that matter most for transplant success; and

WHEREAS, research into the utilization of stem cells derived from the umbilical cord and placenta is another promising, noncontroversial alternative to embryonic stem cell research; and

WHEREAS, private companies are working to make more umbilical cord blood and placenta blood banking available to families and research facilities; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby encourage public awareness of the use of umbilical cord blood

and placenta blood banking, support the expansion of existing research in the area of umbilical cord blood and placenta blood banking, and encourage exploration into additional stem cell research.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.